



RELIGION

*Is it something too sensitive
to talk about ?*

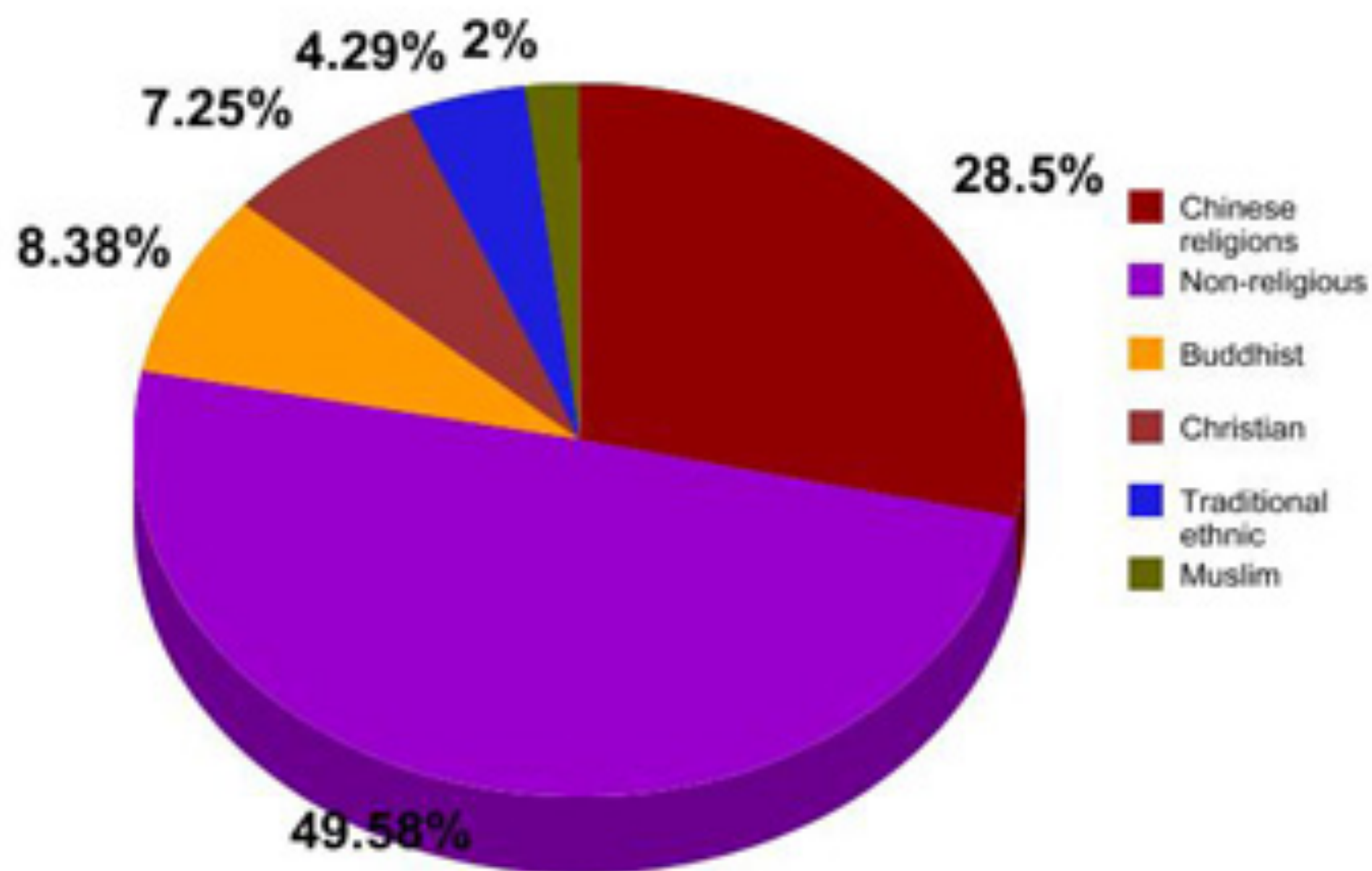


	U.S	China
Do you think it is appropriate to address your personal religious beliefs in the classroom?		
Do you think it is appropriate to address your personal religious beliefs in the school?		
Do you feel comfortable to openly talk about your religious beliefs in public?		
What would you respond if people ask about your religion?		

Philosophy & Religion in China



Religion Distribution in China




Christianism



- <http://english.hdchurch.org/>



Chinese Religion

- Chinese Religion is primarily composed of four main traditions: **Chinese folk religion**, **Confucianism**, **Taoism** and **Buddhism**. The religious outlook of most Chinese people consists of some combination of beliefs and practices from these four traditions.
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Buddhism

- Buddhism was first introduced from India as early as 166 AD along the Silk Roads. It gained the support of the imperial court and since then it has been dominating China for many centuries.





Leshan carved
Buddha- 25
stories tall

Its hand can
hold 100 people.

Tibetan Buddhism



Podala Palace



Taoism



- Taoism is the Chinese religion which believes in ghosts and spirits. It originated from a Chinese school of philosophy which emphasized cooperation with the natural forces.

Taoism

The Way of Harmony with Nature

- A philosophy
 - Profound and paradoxical
- A way of life
 - Playful and practical
- A religion
- Originating in 6th century BCE China



Nature knows best

Philosophical Taoism



- *Wei-wu-wei* (“active non-action”)
 - Passive non-resistance to the natural forces of life
 - Natural way to get things done with least effort and greatest success
 - “Go with the flow,” yield to the natural way of things
- Relativity: “good” and “bad” as a matter of perspective
 - The Taoist sage is non-judgmental

Taoism as a Way of Living

- **Seeking Health and Longevity:** through diet, meditation, exercise, and a stress-free life.
- **Meditation:** seeking spiritual rather than chemical transformation.
- **Natural/holistic healing:** herbal medicine, acupressure, acupuncture, exercise...
- ***T'ai-Chi-Ch'uan*** (“grand ultimate boxing”)
 - *A slow, graceful martial art stressing movement in balance*

Confucianism

Confucianism was originally the philosophy of Confucius who stressed the maintenance of a stable system of inter-personal relationships at different levels of society.



德侔天地 道冠古今
刪述六經 垂憲萬世



Confucianism

A political and social philosophy seeking social harmony on all levels:

Within the self

...the family

...the community

...the state

...the nation

...the world

...the cosmos



Learning from the past to improve the future

Confucianism - Origins



Kung-Fu-tzu (Confucius) “Master Kung”

- 551 - 479 BCE
- Embraces the values of the past
- Political aspirations unfulfilled
- The “greatest teacher who ever lived”
- Rejected in his own day, but the model for Chinese culture for over 2000 years

Meng-Tzu (Mencius) (4th century) continues to develop teachings of Confucius

Confucianism - Texts



- The “Five Classics” (of the past):
 - *I-Ching*
 - The Book of History (*Shu Ching*)
 - The Book of Poems (*Shih Ching*)
 - The Spring and Autumn Annals (*Ch'un Ch'iu*)
 - The Book of Rituals (*Li Chi*)
- The “Four Books” (Confucian)
 - Analects (*Lun Yu*)
 - Doctrine of the Mean
 - The Great Learning
 - The Book of Mencius (*Meng-Tzu*)

Goal of Confucianism



To develop one's *Jen*: Human
Heartedness - the innate goodness of
humanity

Thus becoming a *Chun Tzu*: the "Great
Man" or "Gentle Man"

Jen is developed through intentional living
by Confucian virtues...



Confucian Virtues

The five virtues are Ren (仁, Humaneness), Yi (义, Righteousness), Li (礼, Propriety), Zhi (智, knowledge), Xin (信, integrity).

They are accompanied by the classical four virtues: Zhong (忠, Loyalty), Xiao (孝, Filial Piety), and Jie (节, continency), Yi (义, Righteousness)



Explore more on the Web

- Taoist sites:
 - The True Tao Homepage: a pleasant place to visit and learn more <http://www.taoism.net/html.html>
 - Taoism and the Philosophy of Tai Chi Chuan: informative on both origins and religious Taoism <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Philosophy/Taichi/taoism.html>
 - About the Tao: <http://www.thetao.info/tao/index.htm>
- Confucian sites:
 - <http://www.friesian.com/confuci.htm> an academic review of basic Confucian teachings
 - The Lun Yu (Analects), an English translation online: <http://www.confucius.org/lunyu/lange.htm>

The slide features a decorative border at the top and bottom. The top border consists of six square panels, each containing a different stylized Chinese folk art motif, including a horse, a ram, a deity, a sun, a dragon, and a pig. The bottom border consists of five square panels, each containing a different stylized Chinese folk art motif, including a dragon, a deity, a bull, a dragon, and a snake.

Chinese Folk Religion

- Belief in spirits
- Reverence for ancestors
- Priests perform blessing rituals:
 - purifying space
 - Exorcising evil spirits (“hungry ghosts”)
- Astrology
- Divination

Chinese metaphysics is about...

- Energy
- Change
- Balance
- Harmony
- Inter-relationships

The “Five Elements”

Productive cycle



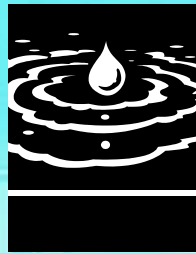
Wood



Fire



Earth



Water



Metal



The “Five Elements”

Destructive cycle



Chinese Metaphysics Concepts

- *Chi* - life force, life energy (“ultimate”)
- *Yin-Yang* - harmony of opposites
 - Yin = passive state of energy
 - Yang = active state of energy



- ✱ *Tao* - the “way” of the cosmos, of nature
- ✱ Heaven (*t'ien*) and Earth
- ✱ “Mandate of Heaven”
- ✱ Practical applications: *I-Ching* and *Feng Shui*

The I-Ching “Book of Changes”



- Ancient divination technique (at least 3000 years old)
- Intended to guide humans in decision making
- Based on combinations of lines representing the ever changing relationship between passive (*yin*) and active (*yang*) energy flow of heaven, human, and earth

— — = *yin*
— = *yang*

Learn more on the Web

- Learn more about *Yin-Yang* and the Five Elements:
http://www.wisdommedia.com/data/library/html/feng_shui_yinyang.asp

I-ching sites:

- *I-Ching* Resources includes history of the *I-Ching* and details about the trigrams:
http://www.onlineclarity.co.uk/I_Ching_resources
- How to use the *I-ching*: <http://littlestcat.com/iching/>

Feng Shui sites:

- Series of pages on Feng Shui theory and application:
http://www.wisdommedia.com/data/library/html/feng_shui_what_is.asp
- *Feng Shui* products and tips from MJG Designs:
<http://shop.store.yahoo.com/mjgdesigns/designtips.html>